

## **Senate Resolution No. 12**

**Introduced by Senators Romero, Alquist, Bowen, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cox, Denham, Ducheny, Dunn, Dutton, Escutia, Figueroa, Florez, Kehoe, Kuehl, Lowenthal, Machado, Migden, Murray, Ortiz, Perata, Scott, Simitian, Soto, Speier, and Torlakson**

Relative to Denim Day California.

WHEREAS, California and other states have declared April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) has declared April 27, 2005, as “Denim Day California”; and

WHEREAS, Both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our society; and

WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government systems; and

WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial, criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim Day California” are also intended as methods of calling attention to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual assault, as well as the problem that many in our society remain disturbingly uninformed about assault and forcible rape; and

WHEREAS, Wearing jeans during Sexual Assault Awareness Month became an international symbol of protest of harmful attitudes about rape in 1999, in response to an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. The justices reasoned that the victim must have assisted her attacker in removing her jeans, which they felt implied consent. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest; and

WHEREAS, Every year since 1999, Denim Day has been recognized and individuals have been encouraged to make a social statement with their fashion statement and wear jeans as a visible means of protest against myths that surround sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, The importance of this issue is underlined by statistics indicating that approximately one in four women and one in ten men are raped in adulthood and the sexual assault victimization rate for youths under 18 years of age has been documented at one in four for girls and one in six for boys; and

WHEREAS, With proper education on the matter, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature strongly supports the efforts of CALCASA to educate persons in our community about the true impact of rape and sexual assault in California; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That April 27, 2005, be recognized as “Denim Day California” and everyone is encouraged to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape and sexual assault; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 12 read and adopted by the Senate April 25, 2005.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate